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GAMBIT

SECRETS
REVEALED...



...LIVES FOREVER
CHANGED!

DIRECT EDITION

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PAQUETTE
AND
PARSON
COLORS
7-10-01

REMY LEBLANC HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE OUTSIDER. ORPHANED AT BIRTH, HE WAS ADOPTED BY THE LEGENDARY THIEVES GUILD OF NEW ORLEANS WHO OFTEN SHUNNED HIM BECAUSE OF HIS STRANGE BURNING EYES. EVENTUALLY, HE REALIZED HE IS A MUTANT — GIFTED AT BIRTH WITH THE ABILITY TO CHANGE INANIMATE OBJECTS WITH BIOKINETIC ENERGY THAT IS EXPLOSIVELY RELEASED! HE'S CHARMING. HE'S DEADLY. **STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE MOST MYSTERIOUS X-MAN OF ALL!**

GAMBIT

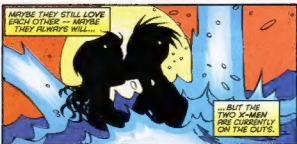
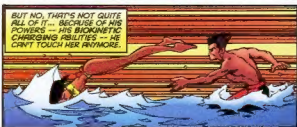
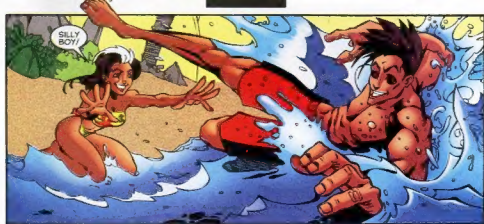
In Dreams

REMY THINKS: IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS!



FABIAN NICIEZA
writes
JOE ST. PIERRE
guest pencils
ERIC CANNON
guest inks
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT's TROY PETERI
letters
TOM SMITH colors
MIKE MARTS edits
BOB HARRAS edits in chief

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BEL--?!



BELLA DONNA
BOUDREAU.

VICEROY OF THE UNITED
THIEVES AND ASSASSINS
GUILDS OF NEW ORLEANS.



HIS FIRST LOVE.
HIS EX-WIFE.



LOOKING...

... REALLY ...

... GOOD.

HAH!



SHE WAS TRAINED SINCE
BIRTH TO BE AN ELITE
ASSASSIN.

SHE HATES
WHAT HER
LIFE HAS
BECOME.

BUT THAT
DOESN'T MEAN
SHE'S NOT
GOOD AT IT!



SALT WATER
FLOODS HIS
LUNGS.

HE'S DROWNING!



NO!

A SURGE OF
BIOKINETIC
ENERGY FRIES
THE HYDROGEN
MOLECULES IN
THE WATER AROUND HIM --
IN HIS THROAT --



--- CHANGING THE ATOMIC
STRUCTURE INTO PURE
OXYGEN.

COURTESY OF HIS
RECENTLY ENHANCED ---
AND RESTORED ---
POWERS.

YOUR
POWERS
ARE BOTH A
BOON AND
A CURSE,
AREN'T THEY,
REMY?



BELIEVE
ME...

... I
WOULD
KNOW!

NEW SON
STANDS
BEFORE
HIM.

THE MYSTERIOUS
WOULD-BE
SAVIOR
AND WORLD-
SCULPTOR ---



--- WHO HAD BEEN PULLING
REMY'S STRINGS FOR
MONTHS ---

--- AND TURNED
OUT TO BE HIM!

OR AT LEAST A CLONE, ALTERNATE
EARTH, ALTERNATE TIME OR NEVER-
BEFORE-REVEALED TWIN BROTHER
VERSION OF HIM!

(PICK YOUR FAVORITE COMIC
BOOK/SOAP OPERA CLICHE
AND APPLY.)

OH, BY THE WAY,
NEW SON IS ALSO
A MUCH MORE
POWERFUL VERSION
OF REMY!

THE
WORLD STANDS
ON THE BRINK OF
DESTRUCTION ---

--- A
DESTRUCTION
THAT WILL BE YOUR
FAULT ---

--- AND
YOU WASTE
YOUR TIME ON
INFANTILE
DREAMS?!



SLSS
CHAK
CHAK
CHAK

WACHOOM

AH...



...DID I --
OR WILL I --
DO THIS?

NO... BUT
I THINK YOUR
SUBCONSCIOUS
MIND IS TELLING
YOU THAT YOU
COULD.

FONTANELLE IS A
PSYCHOTHERAPIST
WHO ANALYZES HER
PATIENTS --

-- BY USING HER
MUTANT ABILITIES TO
ENTER A PERSON'S
MIND THROUGH
THEIR DREAMS.

UNTIL RECENTLY,
SHE HAD BEEN
WORKING FOR
NEW SON.



SHOULD'VE
KNOWN IT WAS
YOU...

WE
HAVE TO
TALK.

WE'VE
DONE MORE'N
ENOUGH TALKIN'
'BOUT ME.

LET'S
SAY YOU
COME CLEEN
FIRST...



FAIR
ENOUGH...
MY NAME IS
GLORIA
DAYNE.

I'VE
WORKED AS A
DREAM THERAPIST
MAKING A DECENT
LIVING IN RELATIVE
ANONYMITY FOR
YEARS.

QUIET ON
THE SURFACE
SO I COULD BE...
ALTERNATIVE...
UNDERNEATH
IT ALL.

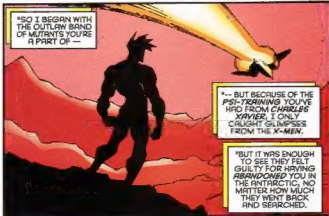
"LIFE WAS FINE UNTIL I WAS
CONTACTED AT MY -- ahem --
CLINIC IN SAN FRANCISCO...

"... BY JACOB
GAVIN JR. --
THE COURIER."



CAN
I HELP
YOU?

YES... I
THINK YOU CAN.
MY EMPLOYER NEEDS
A PSYCHE PROFILE
ON SOMEONE...



"AN' SONNY KNEW THAT,
TOO, 'CAUSE HE GAVE ME
REASON T' BELIEVE
THAT BY HELPIN' HIM --

"-- I'D BE HELPIN'
HUMANS AN' MUTANTS
ALL OVER TH' WORLD
T' LIVE A BETTER LIFE.

"HE BELIEVED IT
THEN -- I THINK HE
STILL DOES NOW.

"HIS ORIGINAL PLAN
WAS TO SAVE TH'
PLANET BY CREATIN'
A NEW EARTH --

"-- OUR WORLD AS IT
SHOULD HAVE BEEN --
A PARADISE --

"-- AN' THEN MOVE
EVERYONE TO THIS
NEW WORLD."

AND YOU
BOUGHT INTO
THAT?

IN MY LINE
OF WORK,
I'VE HEARD
CRAZIER.

I'M SURE...
BUT WHY WOULD
ANYONE WANT
TO GO?

BECAUSE THIS EARTH
WOULD SOON BE
UNINHABITABLE.

PRETTY
GOOD REASON.

"MY FIRST JOB FOR SONNY
WAS TO RESCUE JAKE, WHO'D
GONE TO THE SAVAGE LAND --

"-- T' GET TH'
SCHEMATICS FOR
TERRAFORMING
EQUIPMENT --

"-- FROM SOMEONE
NAMED THE HIGH
EVOLUTIONARY."

"NEXT, I WENT TO AN ANCIENT TEMPLE IN CHINA --"

"-- LOOKING FOR A RUMORED BLUEPRINT TO AN ANCIENT CELESTIAL SHIP THAT WOULD SERVE AS A GIANT ARK."

"THAT'S WHEN THE PIECES OF SONNY'S PLAN STARTED TO MAKE SENSE IN A CRAZY, I'VE-BEEN-WATCHIN'-AN-X-FILES-MARATHON SORTA WAY!"

"THEN I HAD TO OBTAIN MOIRA MacTAGGERT'S FILES ON MUTANTS --"

"-- SO THAT WHEN TH' TIME CAME FOR HIS BIG EXODUS --"

"-- SONNY COULD LOCATE AN CONTROL ANYONE WITH ENOUGH POWER TO PUT UP A FIGHT."

"NEXT UP I FOLLOWED JAKE, WHO WAS TRYIN' TO RECRUIT A PRETTY ECLECTIC GROUP OF MAD SCIENTISTS CALLED TH' CREW A.S.K.E.W. --"

"THE CREW WHAT?"

"YA KNOW, TO THIS DAY, I DON' EVEN KNOW WHAT TH' ACRONYM STANDS FOR."

"MAKE IT A FINAL ROUND QUESTION FOR REGIS."

"ANYWAY, THE PLAN WAS TO HIRE THEM TO TAG AN CONTROL NORMAL HUMANS."

BUT INSTEAD, YOU MET QUIET BILL THAT NIGHT -- A MUTANT WHO COULD SEE INTO OTHER REALITIES.

COURIER BROUGHT HIM TO NEW SON AND THAT'S WHEN SONNY STARTED TO GET MORE AND MORE HINKY.

THAT'S BECAUSE HIS ELABORATE PLAN WAS FALLING APART.





"IT'S A LONG STORY INVOLVING A FAKE EARTH CREATED T' SAVE TH' LIVES OF ALL TH' HEROES WHEN THEY DISAPPEARED A WHILE AGO --

"-- AN' EVEN THOUGH THE FANTASTIC FOUR AN' AVENGERS CAME BACK --

"-- THAT EARTH STILL EXISTED AN' NEEDED T' BE SAVED -- SO DR. DOOM SORT OF SHIFTED IT INTO OUR REALITY."



WHICH MEANT NEW SON COULDN'T CREATE A NEW PLANET BECAUSE ONE WAS ALREADY THERE.

AND THEIR ORBITAL PATHS ARE TOO DELICATE AND PRECISE FOR A THIRD EARTH TO BE PUT THERE, RIGHT?

Uh-h...
Yeh...

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT. I MIGHT BE ECCENTRIC AND INTO LEATHER, BUT I STILL HAVE TWO PIDS!



OOOOKAY... SO ANYWAY, NEW SON STARTED USIN' QUIET BILL T' FIND ANOTHER DIMENSION HE COULD USE AS HIS WAY OUT.



BUT WHAT DOES ONE REALLY HAVE TO DO WITH THE OTHER?

THE REASONS NEW SON NEEDED AND USED YOU ARE CLEAR --

-- YOUR SKILLS AS A THIEF TO GET HIM INFORMATION --

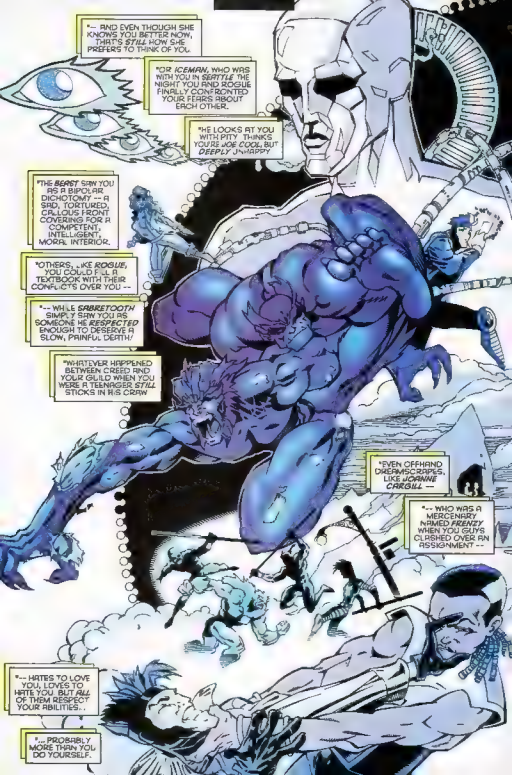
-- YOUR TIES TO THE X-MEN AN' MUTANTS... BECAUSE HE CLAIMS THIS NEW EARTH WILL SOLVE THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS BETWEEN HUMANS AND MUTANTS --

-- BUT WHY DID HE WANT ME TO DELVE SO DEEPLY INTO THE PERSONAL SPECIFICS OF YOUR LIFE?

I MEAN, I DREAMSCRAPED STORM, WHO SAW YOU AS YOU WERE WHEN SHE FIRST MET YOU --

-- A DEVILISH CHARMER, A SCAMP WITH NO REGRETS --





"... AND EVEN THOUGH SHE KNOWS YOU BETTER NOW, THAT'S STILL HOW SHE PREFERS TO THINK OF YOU.

"OR ICEMAN, WHO WAS WITH YOU IN SEATTLE THE NIGHT YOU AND ROGUE FINALLY CONFRONTED YOUR FEARS ABOUT EACH OTHER.

"HE LOOKS AT YOU WITH PITY. THINKS YOU'RE JOE COOL, BUT DEEPLY UNHAPPY.

"THE BEAST SAW YOU AS A BIPOLAR DICHOTOMY -- A SAD, TORTURED, CALLOUS FRONT COVERING FOR A COMPETENT, INTELLIGENT, MORAL INTERIOR.

"OTHERS, LIKE ROGUE, YOU COULD FILL A TEXTBOOK WITH THEIR CONFLICTS OVER YOU --

"... WHILE SABRETOOTH SIMPLY SAW YOU AS SOMEONE HE RESPECTED ENOUGH TO DESERVE A SLOW, PAINFUL DEATH!

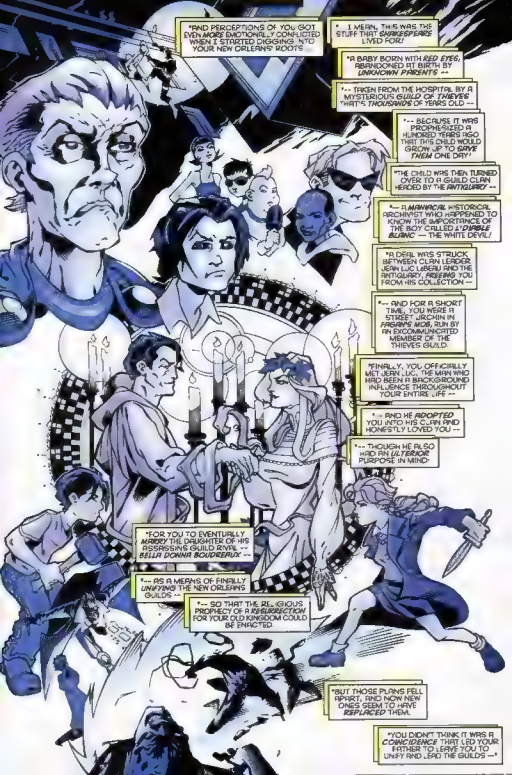
"WHATEVER HAPPENED BETWEEN CREED AND YOUR GUILD WHEN YOU WERE A TEENAGER STILL STICKS IN HIS CRAW.

"EVEN OFFHAND DREAMSCAPES, LIKE JOANNE CARGILL --

"... WHO WAS A MERCENARY NAMED FRENZY WHEN YOU GUYS CLASHED OVER AN ASSIGNMENT --

"... HATES TO LOVE YOU, LOVES TO HATE YOU. BUT ALL OF THEM RESPECT YOUR ABILITIES...

"... PROBABLY MORE THAN YOU DO YOURSELF.



"AND PERCEPTIONS OF YOU GOT EVEN MORE EMOTIONALLY CONFLICTED WHEN I STARTED DIGGING INTO YOUR NEW ORLEANS' ROOTS"

"I MEAN, THIS WAS THE STUFF THAT SHARPESPEARE LIVED FOR!"

"A BABY BORN WITH RED EYES, ABANDONED AT BIRTH BY UNKNOWN PARENTS --"

"-- TAKEN FROM THE HOSPITAL BY A MYSTERIOUS GUILD OF THIEVES THAT'S THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD --"

"-- BECAUSE IT WAS PROPHESIZED A HUNDRED YEARS AGO THAT THIS CHILD WOULD GROW UP TO SAVE THEM ONE DAY!"

"THE CHILD WAS THEN TURNED OVER TO A GUILD CLAN HEADED BY THE ANTIQUARY --"

"-- A MANACRAL HISTORICAL ARCHIVIST WHO HAPPENED TO KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BOY CALLED L'ÉPIQUE BLANC -- THE WHITE DEVIL!"

"A DEAL WAS STRUCK BETWEEN CLAN LEADER JEAN LUC LIBERU AND THE ANTIQUARY, FREEING YOU FROM HIS COLLECTION --"

"-- AND FOR A SHORT TIME, YOU WERE A STREET JRCHIN IN FABIAN'S MOB, RUN BY AN EXCOMMUNICATED MEMBER OF THE THIEVES GUILD."

"FINALLY, YOU OFFICIALLY MET JEAN LUC, THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN A BACKGROUND INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT YOUR ENTIRE LIFE --"

"-- AND HE ADOPTED YOU INTO HIS CLAN AND HONESTLY LOVED YOU --"

"-- THOUGH HE ALSO HAD AN ULTIMATE PURPOSE IN MIND."

"FOR YOU TO EVENTUALLY MARRY THE DAUGHTER OF HIS ASSASSIN'S GUILD RYVAL BELLA DONNA BOUDREAU --"

"-- AS A MEANS OF FINALLY UNIFYING THE NEW ORLEANS GUILDS --"

"-- SO THAT THE RELIGIOUS PROPHECY OF A RESURRECTION FOR YOUR OLD KINGDOM COULD BE ENACTED."

"BUT THOSE PLANS FELL APART, AND NOW NEW ONES SEEM TO HAVE REPLACED THEM."

"YOU DIDN'T THINK IT WAS A COINCIDENCE THAT LED YOUR FATHER TO LEAVE YOU TO UNIFY AND LEAD THE GUILDS --"



JUST AS
YOUR MUTANT
POWERS
WERE BEING
ENHANCED,
DID YOU?

I MEAN,
AT THIS POINT,
THE SUBTERFUGE,
MANIPULATION AND
DUPLICITY --

-- OF THE
PEOPLE WHO
HAVE MOVED YOU
AROUND LIKE A
CHESS PIECE
YOUR ENTIRE
LIFE --

-- YOUR
FATHER, MR.
SINISTER, NEW
SON

-- IT'S ALL
GOTTEN A LITTLE
OVERLAPPED AND
COMPLICATED.
DON'T YOU
THINK?

I MEAN I
WAS ABLE TO
DREAMSCAPE
NEW SON
ONCE.

I SAW A
SCRAMBLE OF
CONFUSED IMAGERY
AND MEMORIES...
BUT MEMORIES
THAT WERE
PROBABLY NOT
HIS OWN

"I FELT HIS ANGER
AND HELPLESSNESS AT
WATCHING EVERYTHING
FALL APART"

"BUT WHAT WAS
HIS EMOTIONAL
TIE TO YOU?"

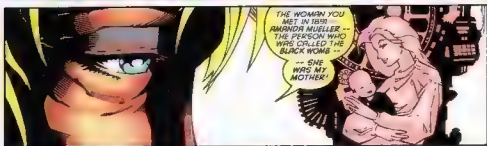
"FOR A WHILE, WHEN
YOU HAD THAT SENTIENT
ENERGY FORM INSIDE
OF YOU, I COULDN'T
LINK TO YOUR MIND


"BUT AFTER YOU FREED
YOURSELF OF THAT, I
FINALLY 'MET YOU' IN
YOUR DREAMS... AND
THINGS BEGAN TO FALL
INTO PLACE FOR ME

"... YOU HAD PRECOGNITIVE
DREAMS OF THE FUTURE --
OF A TRIP YOU WOULD
TAKE TO THE PAST

"TO HELP YOUR GUILD
SAVE THEMSELVES, YOU
WOULD ENCOUNTER
SINISTER AND MAKE
HORRIBLE CONCESSIONS
IN ORDER TO SURVIVE --

"... AND YOU LEARNED OF
A WOMAN SINISTER HAD
COERCED INTO BEING THE
BIRTH FACTORY FOR HIS
GENETIC EXPERIMENTS --"





I REALIZED THAT
SOMEHOW -- YOUR PATHS
AND MINE WERE GOING TO
CROSS -- OR HAD
CROSSED --

-- ALONG
WITH NEW
SON'S.

SO EVERY
JOB I DID FOR
NEW SON AFTER
THAT --

-- WAS
REALLY BEING
DONE FOR MYSELF.

ALL OF IT
TO BETTER
UNDERSTAND
YOU OR TO
PREPARE CERTAIN
PLAYERS --

-- LIKE
ANGEL -- FOR
THE PLANS NEW
SON HAD FOR
YOU

I
STARTED TO
SEE HIM GET A
LITTLE MORE
PANICKED --

-- AND HE
STARTED SAYING
THE ONLY WAY TO
COMPLETE HIS PLANS --
TO SAVE THE PLANET --
WAS TO KILL
YOU!

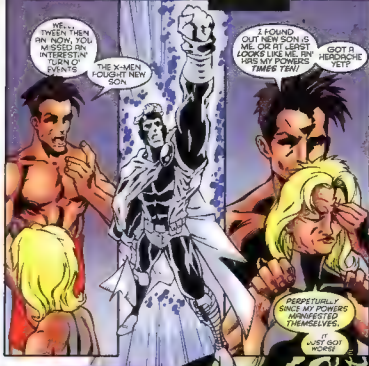
SO WHILE I
WAS SCRAPING
ROGUE, BELLA DONNA,
COURIER, AND EVEN
BULLSEYE --

-- I WAS
ALSO PLANTING
SUBCONSCIOUS
SEEDS TO MAKE
SURE THAT WHEN
THE TIME CAME,
THEY'D HELP
YOU --

-- OR IN
BULLSEYE'S CASE,
IGNORE THE FACT
THAT HE FELT LIKE
KILLING YOU
FOR FUN!

ALL MY
TROUBLE ENDED
UP GETTING ME
FIRED. NEW SON SAID
HE HAD NO MORE
USE FOR ME.

I SPENT
THE LAST WEEK
TRYING TO LOCATE
YOUR MIND IN ORDER
TO TALK TO
YOU.



WE...
TWEEN THEN
AN NOW, YOU
MISSED AN
INTERESTIN'
TURN O'
EVENTS

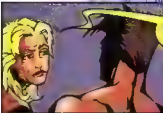
THE X-MEN
FOUGHT NEW
SON

I FOUND
OUT NEW SON IS
ME. OR AT LEAST
LOOKS LIKE ME. AN'
HAS MY POWERS
TIMES TEN!

GOT A
HEADACHE
YET?

PERPETUALLY
SINCE MY POWERS
MANIFESTED
THEMSELVES.
IT
JUST GOT
WORSE

AN'
EVEN KNOW N'
EVERYTHIN' WE KNOW
NOW, IT STILL BR NG'S
US BACK T' SQUARE ONE



WHO IS NEW SON,
WHAT DOES HE WANT
AND HOW IS HE TIED
TO BOTH OUR
PASTS?

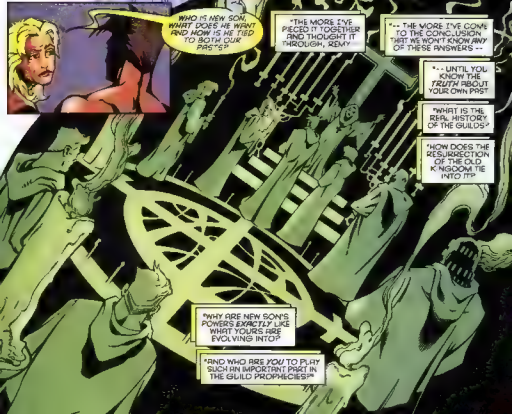
"THE MORE I'VE
PIECED IT TOGETHER
AND THOUGHT IT
THROUGH, REMY

"... THE MORE I'VE COME
TO THE CONCLUSION
THAT WE WON'T KNOW ANY
OF THESE ANSWERS --

"... UNTIL YOU
KNOW THE
TRUTH ABOUT
YOUR OWN PAST

"WHAT IS THE
REAL HISTORY
OF THE GUILDS?"

"HOW DOES THE
RESURRECTION
OF THE OLD
KINGDOM TIE
INTO IT?"



"WHY ARE NEW SON'S
POWERS EXACTLY LIKE
WHAT YOURS ARE
EVOLVING INTO?"

"AND WHO ARE YOU TO PLAY
SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART IN
THE GUILD PROPHECIES?"

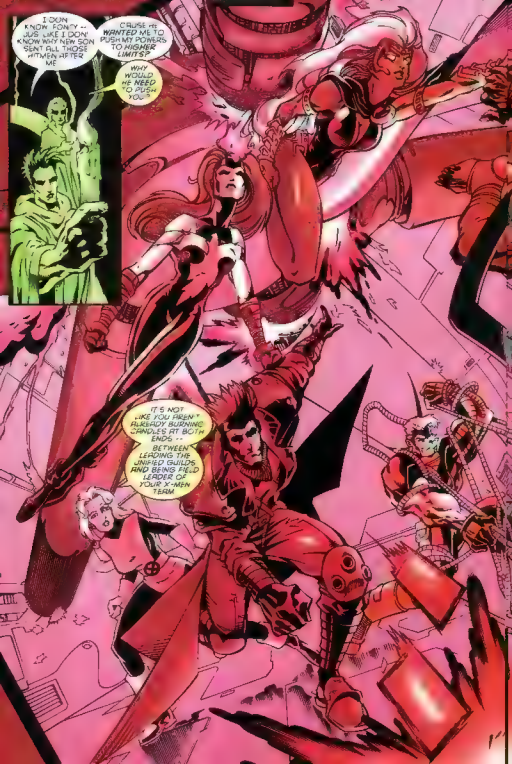
I DON'T
KNOW FORTY --
JUST LIKE I DON'T
KNOW WHY NEW SON
SENT ALL THOSE
WITMEN AFTER
ME

CAUSE HE
WANTED ME TO
PUSH MY POWERS
TO HIGHER
LIMITS?

WHY
WOULD
HE NEED
TO PUSH
YOU?

IT'S NOT
LIKE YOU AREN'T
ALREADY BURNING
CANDLE'S AT BOTH
ENDS --

BETWEEN
LEADING THE
UNIFIED GUILDS
AND BEING FIELD
LEADER OF
YOUR X-MEN
TEAM





FUNNY,
I DID TH' GUILD
B'T 'CAUSE MY
POPPA NEEDED
ME TO --
-- AN' I DID
TH' X-MEN GIG
'CAUSE THEY'RE
MY FAMILY,
TOO

...BUT NOW
IT LOOKS LIKE
BY DOIN' BOTH,
I SOMEHOW
PLAYED INTO
NEW SON'S
HANDS

BUT
WHAT CARDS
DOES HE HAVE
IN THAT HAND,
REMY?

IS NEW SON
A SAVIOR OR
DESTRUCTOR?

ARE HIS
MACHINATIONS
DECIDES IN THE
MAKING --

-- OR IS HE
MERELY TAKING
ADVANTAGE OF
FINDING A PUZZLE
IN FRONT OF HIM
THAT OTHER PEOPLE
HAD PUT MOST
OF THE PIECES
INTO?

I THINK FINDING OUT WHERE NEW SON COMES FROM IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS FINDING OUT WHAT HE INTENDS TO DO

TH' WHERE ANSWERS TH' WHITT?

WELL, WE SORT OF KNOW THE WHO -- HE IS YOU -- AND WE KNOW THE WHY -- TO SAVE THE WORLD --

BUT HE SAYS T' SAVE THE WORLD FROM ME --

AND HE WOULD KNOW THIS -- NOW? BECAUSE ON OTHER ALTERNATE WORLDS, HE FAILED?

OR MAYBE ON TH' WORLD HE ORIGINALLY CAME FROM?

COULD 'BE WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU -- WHICH WILL LEAD US TO THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM

AND WE HAVE TO DO IT SOON.

C'MON, I MEAN, I KNOW TRAPPIN' A BAD GUY IN A SMALL LITTLE SLIVER BETWEEN TIME AN' SPACE ISN' ENOUGH T' STOP HIM NOWADAYS, BU'

YOU BOUGHT US TIME, JUST NOT MUCH OF IT

WHILE SCOURING THE DREAM PLANE FOR YOU, I FELT HIM, REMY

-- LIKE A FLY BUZZING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF A SEALED WINDOW.

OH, VERY SUBTLE...

WHEN HE FINDS H'S WAY BACK?

Krka!



ACTUALLY
THE TIME FOR
SUBTLETY IS
OVER.

WE HAVE
TO FIND OUT
EVERYTHING
WE CAN ABOUT
YOU --

RAISE EVERY
QUESTION YOU'VE
BEEN AFRAID TO
EVEN ASK. MUCH
LESS KNOW THE
ANSWER TO --

-- BECAUSE THE
ONLY WAY TO STOP
NEW SON IS TO
HAVE AMMUNITION
AGAINST HIM.

AND
SINCE HE IS
ME, THAT
AMMUNITION IS THE
TRUTH ABOUT
REMY LEBEAU?

WONDERFUL.

WHERE
YOU SUGGEST
WE START
LOOKIN' FOR
THIS NFO?

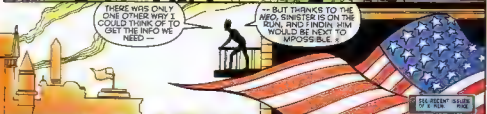
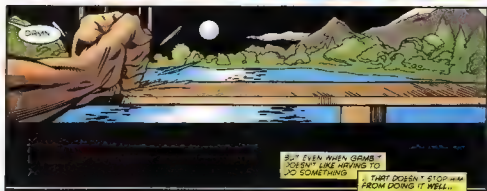
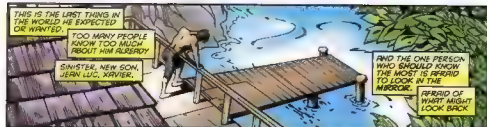
WHERE
SO MUCH OF
THIS SEEMS TO
HAVE BEGUN
REMY --

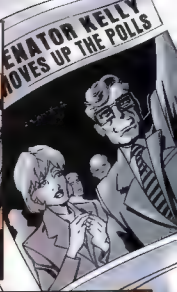


NOT A
COMMON
PAST.



HE WAKES UP IN BED
FEELING MORE ALONE
THAN HE EVER HAS IN
HIS ENTIRE LIFE.







BULLPEN BULLETINS

AVAILABLE AUGUST 2ND

CONAN: THE FLAME AND THE FIEND

It's the sword-swinging conclusion to the mighty Cimmerian's battle with the sinister sorcerer known as Kulan Gath! By Roy Thomas and Geoff Isherwood!

FANTASTIC FOUR

Scattered throughout space and time, the Fantastic Four battle to save the Earth from the residents of Revelation! By John Francis Moore and Salvador Larroca!

HELLCAT

What can one girl do to stop the all-powerful legions of Hell? Plenty, that is, if her name is Patsy Walker! By Steve Englehart and Norm Breyfogle!

IRON MAN

It's the Armored Avenger and the sons of Yin-Sen vs. the wicked Wong-Chu! By Joe Quesada, Frank Tieri and Dan Panosian!

MARVEL BOY

There's only one person who can stop Hexus, the living corporation, from branding America! Three points if you guessed Noh-Varr! By Grant Morrison and J.G. Jones!

MUTANT X

Master Planner is stealing children from the streets of New York City, and only The Six — now fortified with the return of Hank McCoy — can stop the terror! By Howard Mackie and Tom Lyle!

POWER PACK

The kids rocket off into space with their new ally... a Snark? By S.C. Bury and Colleen Doran!

SPIDER-MAN: DEATH & DESTINY

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SPOTLIGHT

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Months after the "Revolution" shook up the mutant world, the two separate X-Men teams are finally coming together. But as their (bad) luck would have it, they're not meeting as allies! You see, **Gambit** cuts a deal with the space-faring **Red Pirates** to free some of his teammates who have been kidnapped by the space-spanning slavers. But to assure their freedom, Gambit's squad has to help the Pirates collect their human prey! Can the ragin' Cajun and the team pull off this con long enough to save thousands? And what will the other group — led by Gambit's ex-love **Rogue** — do when they discover the deal? It's a dangerous game — one which quickly pits X-Man against X-Man!

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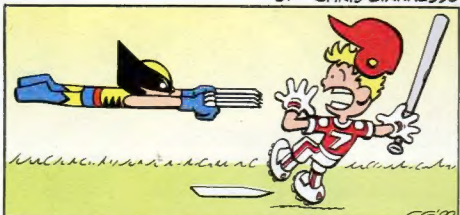
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BULLPEN BITS #51



BY CHRIS GIARRUSSO



POWER POLL

WHO IS THE BIGGEST TOUGH GUY IN THE MARVEL UNIVERSE?

☐ NICK FURY

☐ PUNISHER

☐ THE THING

☐ WOLVERINE

☐ FRANK TIERI

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DEALER'S CHOICE

Our time-tossed letters page soldiers on, as we review your comments on issues #14-15 in an effort to get back on track. Onward!

Dear Dealer's Choice,
Re: GAMBIT #15

What a nice issue. Spatial and temporal anomalies are always fun to read about, and this issue was no different. It's also nice to read a book without its star every once in a while. Speaking of which, it's nice to see Rogue taking charge for a change. It seems that all too often her character's focus is all about her powers and how she can't touch anyone. Well, after 15-plus years of that, it's nice to see it not even mentioned in an issue. Thank you for that.

The Meno Brothers meeting their Daddy was fun. It was surprising to see Pop's arm get chopped off à la Nick Fury and Baron Strucker. I can't say I saw that one coming.

So Mr. Sinister has held Gambit in stasis for over a hundred years, and he's just now breaking out? How undeniably awesome. Unless of course, I'm totally reading this the wrong way. If that's the case, forget I said anything. You know what they say about people who assume things.

Daron Jensen
daronjensen@hotmail.com

Yes, we know what they say, Daron, but we would never decide to refer to one of our fine fans in that manner... especially one of our more regular letter backs! You're forgiven this time.

You also receive a hearty "you're welcome" for praising Fabian's handling of Rogue this issue. Don't forget, the Fabster was one of the scribes who put his indelible stamp on the early days of the Gambit/Rogue soap opera, so who better to deliver a satisfying characterization of her?

Dear Dealer's Choice,

I just spent the afternoon rereading everything since issue #1. Consider me guilty of looking for all clues about the New Son's identity. I have a great theory that would be lots of fun, but while I was reading I found a few other items I wish to comment on.

1. Fontanelle visits the dreams of Carter Ryking in GAMBIT #4. A young Ryking and Charles Xavier are on the run, scared of something referred to as "Black Womb". Then in issue #12, Remy finds Sinister in 1891 through a newspaper article, the headline for which is about the "Black Womb Killings." I know I should be patient, but any comments?

2. Fontanelle sees Tante Mattie's dreams as well. In this dream, Remy saves her life back in 1891. During Remy's trip to 1891, we never see this incident. Does Remy take another trip through time? Or for a No-Prize, can I assume that this moment takes place after issue #14, while he is still stuck in 1891?

These puzzles aside,

I have been enjoying the book immensely. Keep up the great work!

Cory Landon
Clandon@aol.com

Sounds like an afternoon well spent, Cory. After such an effort on your behalf, it would be remiss of us not to give your queries serious weight:

1. Well, yes, you should be patient. It is a virtue, after all. As far as "Black Womb" goes, as you've seen just this ish, this particular mystery is revving up, and rapidly approaching a conclusion. Just hold on a little longer, okay?

2. You are right and wrong. Yes, Gambit does save Tante Mattie in 1891 after the events depicted in GAMBIT #14. However, this doesn't qualify you for a No-Prize, as this is actually revealed on page 22. We even referenced the issue that Tante Mattie had the dream in a bona-fide editorial caption box. What more do you need?

Hi, guys!

Finally, you guys see sense and give Rogue her own book! Huh? This was just an issue of GAMBIT featuring Rogue? Okay ... I'm sure you guys're gonna do an ongoing Rogue title soon, though ... right?

The folding city is a novel concept — has Fabe been reading Gordon R. Dickson, perchance?

Well, until Rogue's new ongoing title folds before it's even been given a chance (ever the cynic, me) ... ah, well, you know the rest.

Paul M. Slattery
pms@bringstead.freeserve.co.uk

Ouch! Gee, Paul, for someone who frequents these pages with the frequency you do, that was an awfully unkind cut. Are you trying to cheese us off, intimating that, were we to publish a solo Rogue mag, we'd cancel it prematurely? Why, it's almost enough to send us off half-cocked to prove you wrong. Almost. We'd need a mountain of mail from GAMBIT readers begging for a Rogue ongoing title before we'd do something like that.

Dear Mike and crew,

What a great finish! The handling of Mr. Sinister was incredible. Quite honestly, he's more interesting here than in the future! Candra was nicely written as well. I think the atmosphere of the 19th Century was captured really well in this story, and that is something that is not often done right.

So Courier is stuck as a woman, eh? Well, it will certainly add complexity to his character. Is this a permanent fix or can the New Son help him out when they get back? Speaking of which, they are going to get back soon, right? I've really enjoyed this past story, but too much of a good thing is still too much. I understand that Remy still has the Tante Mattie loose end to tie up, but after that let's get him back to the present.

I am excited about finding out what is going on with Sek, and now that you've tossed Rogue into the mix, things should really get interesting! It's nice to see the Fontanelle sub-plot finally pay off — it's been a long time coming! Might have been the New Son that Angel was talking to this issue? He did make a big deal about letting Angel see his face ...

Ronnie Dingman
Louisville, KY

That he did, Ronnie, but why he did it will remain a mystery ... at least until GAMBIT 2000 hits the stands (and if that's not a plug, we don't know what is!).

Greetings,

I loved the latest issue of GAMBIT. It was interesting to see how Sinister developed into who he is, as well as how he'd deal with the Externals. I also liked how Courier was played.

So, I have some ideas as to who the New Son is. I think he's the son of the Black Womb. She eventually lived long enough to help out Xavier, Cain, and Carter in their genetic work at Alamogordo. I also suspect that he is perhaps Gambit's son, as well. Maybe a special DNA strand was needed for her to have a child? In any case his name makes sense, as he'd be the "new son" for the Black Womb who'd lost so many.

But eventually the "Age of Apocalypse" plays a role, as well. We see the Dark Beast in one flashback as well as the alternate Rogue and Magneto waiting for the M'Kraan crystal. So perhaps he is able to travel to alternate Earths and is out to prevent the Age of Apocalypse from occurring on Marvel's Earth. He may also be a Morlock, hence his interest in the Mutant Massacre. I'm sure I'll have the answer before long.

Taylor Ellwood
Magereign@hotmail.com

You will indeed, Taylor, and sooner than you think. You're just a couple short weeks away from the senses-shattering, mystery-revealing, subplot-resolving GAMBIT 2000. It's a double-sized extravaganza as only Mighty Marvel and Fabulous Fabe can bring it to ya. To quote Storm from the X-Men movie, "Hold on to something."



NEXT ISSUE:

IT'S MYSTIQUE
VS. GAMBIT IN
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WUFF SAID!

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OKAY TO PRINT

I DON' KNOW, FONTY -- JUST LIKE I DON' KNOW WHY NEW SON SENT ALL THOSE HITMEN AFTER ME...



'CAUSE HE WANTED ME TO PUSH MY POWERS TO HIGHER LIMITS?

WHY WOULD HE NEED TO PUSH YOU?

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU AREN'T ALREADY BURNING CANDLES AT BOTH ENDS --
-- BETWEEN LEADING THE UNIFIED GUILDS AND BEING FIELD LEADER OF YOUR X-MEN TEAM.

FUNNY, I DID TH' GUILD BIT 'CAUSE MY POPPA NEEDED ME TO --
-- AN' I DID TH' X-MEN GIG 'CAUSE THEY'RE MY FAMILY, TOO...

BUT NOW IT LOOKS LIKE BY DOIN' BOTH, I SOMEHOW PLAYED INTO NEW SON'S HANDS.

BUT WHAT CARDS DOES HE HAVE IN THAT HAND, REMYP?

IS NEW SON A SAVIOR OR DESTROYER?

ARE HIS MACHINATIONS DECIDES IN THE MAKING --

-- OR IS HE MERELY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF FINDING A PUZZLE IN FRONT OF HIM THAT OTHER PEOPLE HAD PUT MOST OF THE PIECES INTO?